

FM 8-55, PLANNING FOR HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORT, SEPTEMBER 1994

Proponent

The proponent for this document is the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, U.S. Army Medical Command.

Web Site Location

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Definition

Medical threat - “A collective term used to designate all potential or continuing enemy actions and environmental situations that could possibly adversely affect the combat effectiveness of friendly forces, to include wounding, injuries, or sickness incurred while engaged in a joint operation.” (Joint Pub 1-02, Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms, 23 March 1994)

Preventive medicine estimate - provides a doctrinally approved framework used to logically consider all the elements employed in combating the medical threat. The estimate process is a tool that should be used by medical/preventive medicine planners .

Synopsis

The document describes guidance to health service support planners within a theater of operations. It presents accepted principles, practices, and procedures pertaining to health service support planning. The information is applicable across the spectrum of military operations. It describes the medical battlefield rules and their rationale which is the:

- ◆ prevention of disease and injury, and
- ◆ the concept that good medical care will increase the probability of trauma victim survival.

Preventive medicine services are in Chapter 11. Preventive medicine is described as the most effective, and least expensive means of providing the combat commander with the maximum number of healthy, combat-effective soldiers. The chapter focuses on the:

- ◆ medical threat,
- ◆ preventive medicine estimate,
- ◆ preventive medicine plan,
- ◆ preventive medicine troop plan, and
- ◆ echelons of preventive medicine service support.

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What Does This Mean for Military Public Health?

To effectively perform our preventive medicine mission:

- ◆ the guidance should be read and understood by all preventive medicine personnel. It can be invaluable in addressing routine operations as well as a potential or actual crisis.
- ◆ the format for developing the preventive medicine estimate in Appendix B, helps to gain an overall picture of the specific situation being addressed, and developing courses of action. We should use the preventive medicine estimate framework to identify the health threats, perform threat assessments, and develop countermeasures.
- ◆ the formats for developing the preventive medicine plans in Appendix C are used to develop a plan of action based on a selected course of action.
- ◆ the guidance is applicable for the operational (TOE) preventive medicine units and individuals, as well as specialty response teams such as the preventive medicine threat assessment teams, from institutional (TDA) units i.e., USACHPPM or its subordinate commands.